

the change. The question of salary, and by whom paid, could be easily arranged; it should be such an amount as to secure the services of careful and well-educated medical men. The wealthier classes could still have their children vaccinated in their own homes as heretofore, and in the most efficient manner.

Thus, and, I believe, only thus, can the system of arm-to-arm vaccination be properly carried out, and choice made of the most perfect vaccine lymph. At present, the medical attendant is often obliged either to take lymph from a vesicle which is not perfect, or to obtain preserved lymph from a probably unknown source.

I am, sir, yours obediently,
F. W. STRUGNELL.
Small-pox and Vaccination Hospital, Highgate Hill,
Upper Holloway, N., London, Jan. 8th, 1880.

OBITUARY.

J. LOCKHART CLARKE, M.D., F.R.S.

THE announcement we have to make of the death of Dr. Lockhart Clarke will be received with universal regret. The sad event took place at his sister's house at Balham, on Sunday, January 25th.

Jacob Augustus Lockhart Clarke was born in 1817. His mother was left a widow when he was a boy, and took her family to France during their education. Like many minds of a high type, Lockhart Clarke gave no early indications of unusual ability, and, indeed, was regarded by his family as lazy. He received his medical education at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, and, on becoming qualified, commenced practice at Pimlico. Here, amidst the constant interruptions incidental to his calling, he carried on those patient investigations which have made his name an imperishable honour to our profession and country. Whilst as successful in general practice as the abstractions necessitated by the scientific work allowed, he determined, about ten years ago, to become a consulting physician, justly thinking that the knowledge he had gained of the intimate nature of the nervous system and its diseases, qualified him for such a career. On the occasion of his being elected physician to the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Regent's Park, we expressed our warm sense of his labours and of his special aptitude for that position. What measure of success he had we do not accurately know, but we do know enough to be sure that it was in no way commensurate to his deserts. He fell into ill-health nearly twelve months ago. For some time, it had been apparent that he had pulmonary disease, and his sufferings were increased by a surgical complication, which led him to seek the services of Mr. Henry Smith. These were freely given, and he was seen before his death by Dr. Hughlings Jackson and Dr. Stephen Mackenzie.

EDWARD CATOR SEATON, M.D., F.R.C.P., MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

WE had, last week, the painful duty of chronicling the death of Dr. Edward C. Seaton, who, until a very recent date, held the important post of chief medical adviser of the civil departments of State. Dr. Seaton was born of Scotch parentage in the year 1815, and after prosecuting his medical studies in Edinburgh and Paris, took his degree of Doctor of Medicine at the former university in 1837. For some years, he was in general practice at Rochester, and subsequently in Sloane Street. He had always taken great interest in the subject of vaccination, and when the Epidemiological Society was founded in 1850, one of its first acts was the appointment of a committee for the investigation of small-pox in connection with vaccination, with the late Mr. Grainger as chairman, and Dr. Seaton as honorary secretary. After two years of painstaking inquiry, the committee presented a valuable report (especially the work of Dr. Seaton), which was ordered to be printed for presentation to Parliament, and has since been justly considered as one of the classics of vaccination. After the issue of this report, Dr. Seaton naturally became recognised as one of the first authorities on the subject; and thus, when Mr. Simon inaugurated the systematic inspection of public vaccination, it was not surprising that he selected Dr. Seaton as the first vaccination inspector to be appointed. For the last twenty years, Dr. Seaton has been continuously employed in Government work, though it was not until 1865 that he was permanently attached to the Medical Department of the Privy Council. From 1865 to 1871, he acted as superintending inspector, and, after the retirement of the late Mr. Tomkins, as director of the National Vaccine Establishment. During this period, he contributed to Reynolds' *System of Medicine* an article on vaccination; and he also wrote, in the year 1867, a *Handbook of Vaccination*, published by Macmillan, which went very thoroughly and completely into the subject.

On the formation of the Local Government Board in 1871, he was made the senior assistant medical officer under Mr. Simon; and, while acting in that capacity, he represented the British Government, with Dr. Dickson of Constantinople as his colleague, at the International Sanitary Conference at Vienna in 1874. After his return from this important duty, he prepared for the Local Government Board a very elaborate and valuable report on the Small-Pox Epidemic of 1871-2 in its relation to Vaccination and the Vaccination Laws, published in the fourth report of Mr. Simon's New Series, and afterwards reprinted separately. On the retirement of his chief, in May 1876, Dr. Seaton succeeded to the post of medical officer, though with diminished powers and a smaller salary. This appointment he held up to the end of 1879, although for the last year his failing powers rendered him unable fully to discharge his official functions.

During the whole of this long period, Dr. Seaton had been working steadily and perseveringly in the improvement of our national system of public vaccination; a work to which, in fact, he may be said to have devoted his life. On all matters relating to vaccination, he was an acknowledged authority, and the improvements of the last twenty years are to a very large extent due to him.

Dr. Seaton had a family of four sons and four daughters; one son and two daughters, together with his wife, having predeceased him. His eldest son is the well known officer of health for Nottingham, and one of his daughters is married to Dr. George Buchanan, his successor at the Local Government Board. At his funeral, which took place on Monday last, at Kensal Green Cemetery, there was a large gathering of past and present members of his department, who attended to pay a last mark of respect to so faithful a colleague and so true a friend.

By Dr. Seaton's death, the nation has lost a valuable public servant, and the science of hygiene one of its most sincere supporters. To the members of his own department, and to those who had any relations with him, whether officially or privately, Dr. Seaton had endeared himself by his thorough honesty of purpose and his upright and sterling character. A good disciplinarian, he was never harsh or unjust in his estimate of conduct, and the truest interests of the large class of officials with whom he had to deal were always perfectly safe in his hands. His death will be regarded as a painful loss by the whole profession, and especially by those who knew and valued him.

MICHAEL FOSTER, F.R.C.S., HUNTINGDON.

MICHAEL FOSTER was born on April 22nd, 1810, at Holywell, a small village in the outskirts of Bedfordshire, close to Hitchin. His father was a farmer of more than average ability, being much given to antiquarian research. For many generations back, the members of the family had been farmers in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, and were generally conspicuous for their devotion to the cause of civil and religious liberty, some of them in their time being close personal friends of John Bunyan. He began his professional studies in 1826, by becoming an apprentice to Mr. Peck, surgeon, of Kimbolton; and, after serving the usual time of five years, entered, in 1831, the medical school of University College, pursuing his clinical studies at Middlesex Hospital at the same time, University College Hospital not being as yet established. Of his teachers (among whom were Sir Charles Bell and Dr. Elliotson), one still survives him—the then Demonstrator of Anatomy, Richard Quain. His college career was a very brilliant one; he carried off a large number of medals; his chief rival being his intimate friend William Baly, the since distinguished physician. Possibly, had his means allowed him to stay in London, Michael Foster might have achieved an eminence like that of his college friend. But he had no such opportunity. When, after two years' study (for so short a time was sufficient then), he had "passed the Hall and College", the *res angusta domi* led him to turn his qualifications to immediate profit by becoming first assistant to, and subsequently partner with, Mr. Jonah Wilson of Huntingdon. For more than forty years (for many years single-handed), he carried on a large country practice, winning from his patients not only an almost unbounded confidence in his professional skill, but also a strong personal affection growing out of his blameless unselfish character and pure Christian spirit. Nor was the confidence or affection misplaced: few men have possessed to so marked an extent as he did the instincts of a doctor, or have loved their profession more; few men have gone through life so intent as he was on doing good to others.

Premonitory warnings of the malady which finally destroyed him, appearing in the form of transient pains, did not at first excite the anxiety of his family; but the shock which he received five years ago, in the sudden death by accident of his son John B. Foster, was soon followed by unmistakable symptoms of that "cruel" malady, as Charcot truly calls it, paralysis agitans or Parkinson's disease. He was soon compelled to withdraw from practice; and, after many months of suffer-